

Beginning of the Reformation War.
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moved northwards with a force of Ayrshire yeomen in support of the reformers. This move compelled the regent and her commander to negotiate, with the aid of Argyll and Lord James, who had so far held aloof from the Perth movement, and ultimately to guarantee the Protestant worship within the city and immunity from a French garrison. Knox and his associates suspected treachery, and took the precaution to enter into a bond, which Argyll, Lord James, Ochiltree, and Glencairn, among others, signed, to defend their faith in case of the renewal of persecution. Mary of Guise, as Knox rightly divined, had no intention of keeping faith with heretics. Notwithstanding express treaty stipulation, she left a garrison, drawn from the Franco-Scottish army, to overawe the men of Perth, and advanced into Fife with M. D'Oysel in pursuit of Argyll and Lord James, who had summoned the Protestants of Angus and Mearns to St Andrews. With them came Knox to fulfil his prophecy in the French galley by thundering defiance to Antichrist from the pulpit of the parish church, and to set the congregation to work to strip the sacred building of its idolatrous ornaments. Argyll and Lord James repeated the tactics of Glencairn, and, on moving from Falkland towards St Andrews, D'Oysel found the road barred by 3,000 stout Protestants on Cupar Muir. To his query as to the meaning of this demonstration they replied, "that as we have offended no man, so wald we seek appointment of no man; but if any wald seek our lyves (as we wer informed they did), they should find us, if they pleased to mak deligence." In conclusion of further parley they added, "that if they culd find the meane that we and our bretherin myght be free from the tyranny devised against us, they should reasonabillie desyre nothing whiche should be denied for our parte." The result was an eight days' truce, which, in spite of elaborate negotiations, expired without an accommodation.

Argyll and Lord James improved the opportunity to compel the evacuation of Perth by the regent's garrison, whose surrender was celebrated by the exasperated populace by the burning of Scone Abbey. They then made a dash on Stirling, whilst D'Oysel drew back over the Forth. From Stirling they moved eastwards to Edinburgh, the regent and her com-